

## Politics

*Alabama elected the first Democratic senator in two decades when Doug Jones was elected in a special election.*

Embarrassingly, Republican opponent Roy Moore didn't concede, "Realize that when the vote is this close that it's not over," he said. "We also know that God is always in control." He has been accused of molesting multiple young girls, and is banned from a mall for being creepy.

He also released a video of him pulling at straws by repeating what he thinks will get to Republicans, bashing transgender and gay people, and talking about abortions.

This gives Democrats an edge in congress, which is why democrats are attempted to get him seated before the final tax bill is voted on.

*Hillary Clinton surpassed Donald Trump in the popular vote by a higher percentage than Doug Jones beat Roy Moore.*

**The Federal Communications Commission (5 members, majority republican) votes today on repealing net neutrality laws. After the FCC, it will move onto congress.**

Net Neutrality protects internet freedom of speech and consumer pricing. Websites could cost extra. The cost of these laws VS the tax bill is not comparable. The tax bill destroys the future of American taxpayers and working class Americans, and Net Neutrality will change the internet to be similar to cable (slow and annoying). ISPs will be able to block things they don't like (or at the least make it slower) and it will extend the grip of corporations on what some people claim to be a necessity.

*Verizon was given 2.1 billion dollar worth of tax breaks in 1994 to install internet in Pennsylvania, and did not follow through.*

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## THE VIKING LONGSHIP

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**Sage Alexander:** Editor  
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**Dylan E. Sanders:** Comic of the edition  
**Mr. Berkshire:** Staff Advisor

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**The meetings for the Viking Longship are Wednesdays in Mr. Berkshire's B-4 at lunch**

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### SUBMISSIONS:

Material is accepted from anyone. Anonymous submissions are accepted. Please send any writing submissions with a title, author's name, and any text that is to be included.

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# THE VIKING LONGSHIP

## THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Sixth Edition

December 14th, 2017

## **Who's Idea Was This Stupid Tax Bill** -Sage Alexander



A tax bill has passed through the senate early in the morning of Saturday, December 2nd. It passed the House of Representatives last month, but due to revisions made since then, a final piece of legislation must be passed through both chambers of congress. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would cost \$1.47 trillion in national debt over the next ten years. The tax cuts for both corporations and the wealthiest citizens greatly reduces the amount of money the government can spend. The administration's

actions earlier this year to raise the military budget by 700 billion dollars counteracts the claim by Donald Trump about limited government. The UN estimates it would cost 30 billion dollars to end world hunger for a year, and a bill proposed in April states the cost of free college is 47 billion a year.

The tax bills passed by the house of representatives and senate include differences, some written on the bill in pen. The house bill included a measure that will end tax deduction from student loan interest, both include huge corporate tax cuts, and each makes sweeping changes to health care which are expected to lead 13 million Americans to drop their insurance.

Wednesday, Congress members from both chambers met with the president to discuss the differences in the two bills passed by each part of congress. According to the New York Times; "The changes included a slightly higher corporate tax rate of 21 percent, rather than the 20 percent in the legislation that passed both chambers, and a lower top individual tax rate of 37 percent for the wealthiest Americans, who currently pay 39.6 percent. But the bill will still scale back some popular tax breaks, including the state and local tax deduction and the deductibility of mortgage interest." They reportedly removed a measure that would tax grad students on tuition waivers.

To understand the implications of severely cutting taxes on corporations, we must look at another United States president who campaigned for small government. In 1986, Ronald Reagan pushed tax cuts that brought corporate taxes to 35%, down from 48%. During his presidency, the national debt about tripled. Starting in 2019, our tax cut brings it down to 21%.

Other parts include the exemption of more families from estate tax (taxing inherited income), and the allowing of drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The claims of helping small businesses are solely based on the fact that this bill helps pass-through businesses. These are companies that are registered under a person rather than a separate corporation.

The economy is the strongest with a healthy middle class, and getting these Americans to pick up the slack from the wealthiest is sure to increase inequality and extend the imperialism of the United States.

## Chapter Four

### THE ORIGINAL PRIEST OF LIFE, THE UNIVERSE, AND EVERYTHING

As I sit, I feel the power grown slightly weaker. "Ah, that'll be Genghis Khan again," I said to the woman sitting next to me. "Oh, and that one's Moses," She nodded distractedly as she cradled two infant children, one male and one female.

"Look," she said, staring right into my eyes. "You know that the Power is fading, and it's only a matter of time before it's completely gone from you. You know it's happening. I know, too. I can feel it getting steadily weaker. And I am still sensitive enough to know that it is going from the whole world, not just us."

"Yes," I responded wearily, "I feel it, too. I can tell it will be completely gone by around the human year 1000000 CE if we do not do something. So," I opened my eyes, which were as flat and reflective as mirrors twin golden mirrors. "I will make a provision. **STARTING...**" I coughed, finding it slightly harder to access the Power than usual. "**STARTING AT THE HUMAN YEAR 1825, THERE WILL HENCEFORTH BE A PROVISION: TO ACCESS THE POWER OF THE ANCIENTS, THE PRIEST, PRIESTESS, OR ONE OF THEIR CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO BE ASKED FOR HELP BY ANOTHER!**" And it was so.

And the Power eventually passed from my body into that of my son, and that of my wife into our daughter-twins, whose lives and lineages would be forever and inseparably intertwined. My wife and I would not die, for millions of years, not truly, for we were alive millions of years before the first human civilization. We went and found a cave, which looks today like a massive mansion with impenetrable walls and no crest on the gates. There we live to this day. The power may have left us, but we still have just enough to get by.

There will be more from us later, little human, and you'd best believe it.

## Truckee moves to replace Blue Bags with carts

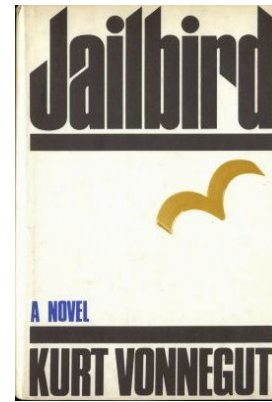
 -Sage Alexander

On Nov 21st, the town of Truckee announced it would do away with a system that South Tahoe continues to use; wrapping yard trimmings and recycling in plastic bags. Instead, citizens will dispose of these waste items in trash bins. This comes at the expiration of the cities agreement with Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal, a privately owned business that removes the waste of the people of Truckee. Residents will be provided with the carts over the next three years.

South Tahoe Refuse is the only business that picks up the waste for South Tahoe's inhabitants. This business sorts through all trash generated in order to pick out recyclable materials, and boasts a 65% recycling rate. At the current moment, recycling is put into blue plastic bags and are picked up along with common waste. Green waste, or yard trimmings, need to be placed into a plastic garbage bag. An issue that arises is the waste of the bags themselves. South Tahoe Refuse uses one kind of garbage truck for residential pick ups, and therefore would have to redesign a way to separate each kind of trash apart from using wasteful plastic bags. This fall, STR issued a pilot program for green waste. Rather than plastic bags, inhabitants in certain neighborhoods were to use totes. This is a good way to deal with the amount of green waste in the time of raking pine needles without adding an extra step that increases the amount of trash generated. STR offers green waste as mulch for areas with poor soil.

South Tahoe City Council banned single use plastic bags December 7, 2015 from businesses (excluding restaurants). If the bag is 40% recycled, a business may still use them. South Tahoe Refuse's website does not mention if they have the equipment to recycle plastic grocery bags. If we can place regulations on shops to attempt to become 'greener', then we could also place these on the services the city chooses. I am ready for the government to move towards entirely compostable bags, or enforcing the ban they put into place by removing the 40% allowance.

## BOOK OF THE ISSUE:



*JAILBIRD* BY KURT VONNEGUT

-Sage Alexander

Jailbird is my favorite out of the novels I've read by Vonnegut. This follows the story of a man who, upon being released from prison, recounts his path, including his time with Harvard and the Nixon administration. The man was at the fringes of the Watergate scandal. There are dialogues about government, intellectualism, labor, and Marxism. Vonnegut mocks corporate America, poking holes in the absurdity of greed and its influence on American politics. He does the same with the Red Scare, anti-communism and communism alike. This book is less farcical than his other writing, as he takes on the flaws of mankind and the utter idealism of changing the world all at once. With the investigation of the President's campaign by Mueller, now is an ideal time to read this book.

*"Never have I risked my life, or even my comfort, in the service of mankind. Shame on me."*

-Kurt Vonnegut, Jailbird

## According to the Tahoe Daily tribune;

"Bread & Broth 4 Kids provides weekend food bags to over 150 students in South Lake Tahoe. The organization is currently asking for kid-friendly, non-perishable food items like canned spaghetti and meatballs, beef ravioli, stew and chili, tuna, mac 'n' cheese instant cups, chicken noodle and vegetable soups, and fruit and applesauce packets.

Donations can be dropped at the rectory office at St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Residents can also "Sponsor A Student" for a week (\$5), a month (\$20), a semester (\$100) or a school year (\$200).

For more information, visit <http://www.breadandbroth.org>."Á

## ART/MEDIAÁ

Remembering Musicians lost in 2017

### Chris Cornell

died May 18th 2017. He was the lead singer of Soundgarden and had the voice of an angel. He was 52.



### Joseph Emmanuel "Manno"



### Charlemagne

died December 10th. He was a Haitian folk singer who fought for civil rights, singing about taking down the greedy politicians in his country. He was 69.

### Fats Domino

died October 24th, 2017.

He was one of the pioneers of rock and roll, a pianist who lived in Louisiana through his life. He was 89.



### Malcolm Young

died November 8th, 2017. He was the AC/DC rhythm guitarist and co-founder. He was 64.



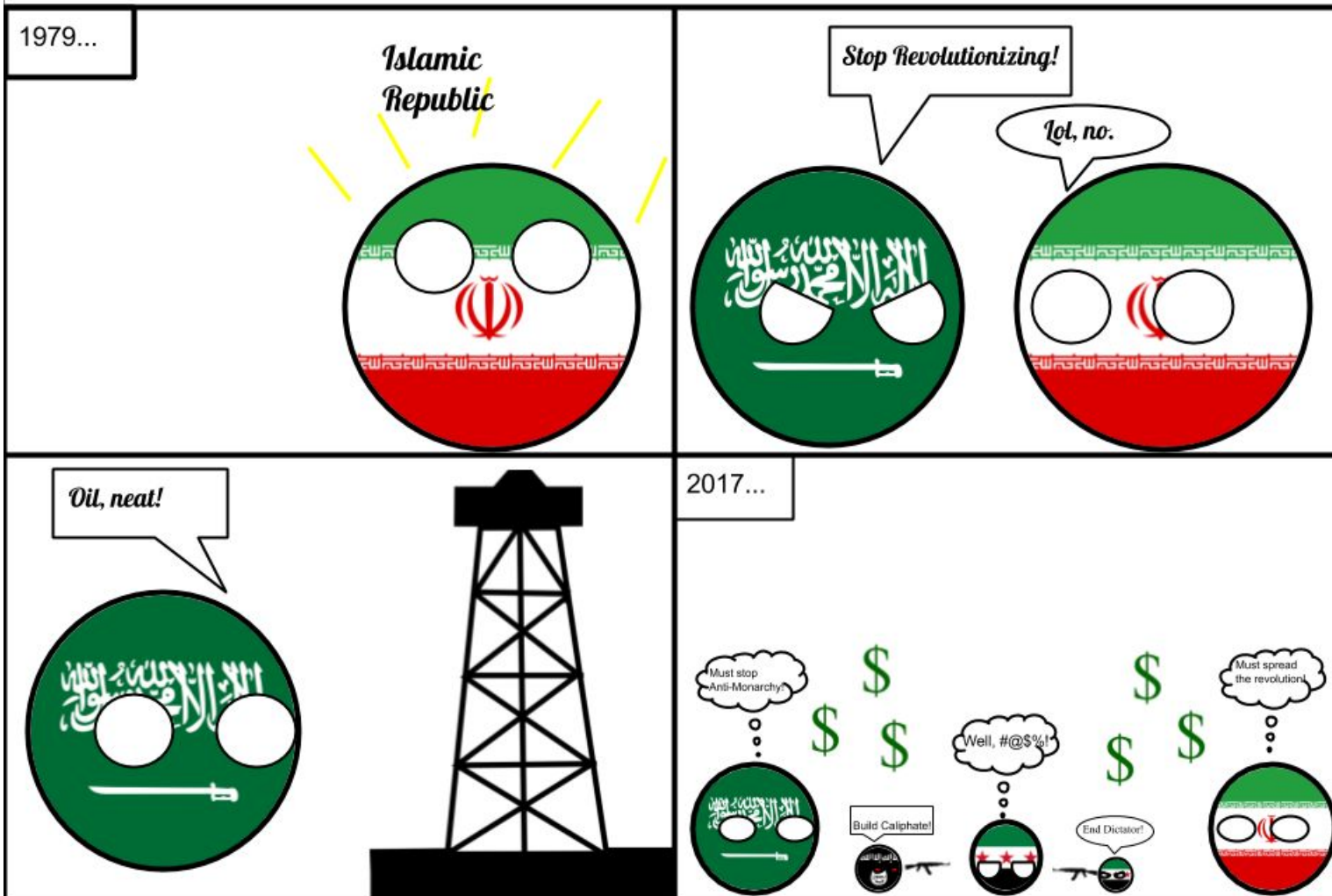
# COMIC OF THE EDITION

## Poetry, Anyone?

Countryball Comic #4

Dylan E. Sanders

What the Gulf?!?!



*"Those who will not reason, are bigots, those who cannot, are fools, and those who dare not, are slaves."*  
-Lord Byron

### Toxic Feelings" / Spot Hopkins

I never liked the word 'Goodbye'..  
It sounds too permanent and empty..  
It creaks like an old house that is worn down,  
abandoned to rot away along with the memories the walls hold.

Yet you said the awful word anyway.  
Leaving my heart shattered on the ground and my thoughts tie around my throat like a noose I  
cannot loosen.

Instead of jumping, I distracted myself from its grip with others, who are just as lonely as me.  
They spend their days trying to drown out the loud and hurtful words with white noise that makes  
their body go numb with ecstasy.

Detaching their bodies from this tiring and somber concept of reality. Not with drugs or alcohol do  
they proceed with their lives, but with gentle kisses and spending the night in someone else's bed.

Their touches acting much like the wind as it goes running through the fields, only to come back for  
more when the wind misses the way its hands intertwined with yours.

Replace the wind with me and you see where I stand! Broken and afraid of what might happen if I let  
you in again.

Scared and unwilling to let my heart feel the way it did before. My walls will not come down enough  
to let you see my affections but still protect the glass heart inside the box I call my ribcage.

I love you as much as I can without hurting myself because as soon as I do YOU said 'Goodbye'.  
You turned your back on me without a second thought and I thought the faults were mine. These  
**Toxic Thoughts** crowd my mind.

I tried to gain your affections as I begged at your feet, willing to give you everything.  
I begged until my voice ran out much like my will to live.  
You walked out the door and slammed it so hard the sign that read 'Home Sweet Home.' fell to the  
floor. My whole vision of family changed the instant you left...  
and the soft buzz of the promise of yesterday and the wisdom of tomorrow grows louder until I can  
barely hear,

drowning out the bitter 'Goodbye.'

### Around Campus

#### Sports

*It is wrestling, cheerleading, basketball, and nordic ski season.*

**Politics Club** meets Thursdays at lunch in Beavers, C-6. Prepare by finding where you stand on the political compass at [politicalcompass.org](http://politicalcompass.org)

The holidays are upon us!. Next week is a bunch of dress of days. Wednesday the 20th is flannel day, Friday is Holi-day.

**Winter Break** is Dec 25- Jan 5.

#### Tada

Dec 18 is the winter **music** concert. In the student union 5-8pm. Admissions are \$3 for students, \$5 for adults

**VTV** (Viking Television) comes out on YouTube every Thursday.

#### Musical

Thoroughly Modern Millie has begun rehearsals. Performances are January 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28.

